

## The Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland

### **PRESS RELEASE**

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#### **APRS SUPPORTS PENTLAND HILLS REGIONAL PARK EXTENSION**

The Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland (APRS) has announced its support for extending the Pentland Hills Regional Park into the Scottish Borders and South Lanarkshire.

In its response to the recent consultation by local MSP Christine Grahame, APRS states:

“It is clear that the compromise boundary established in 1986 lacks logic, as it resulted from administrative considerations at the time rather than defensible landscape criteria, so it is right that this anomaly should now be rectified. This will help the entire Pentland Hills range and its surrounding communities to achieve its full potential, and will secure the integrated management of the Pentland Hills for the benefit of future generations.”

APRS has supported the concept of Regional Parks since their introduction, and believes they continue to have an important role in conserving substantial tracts of open land close to large centres of population, whilst providing opportunities for quiet recreation such as walking, cycling and watersports. However, APRS was disappointed that the original proposal to include the entire Pentlands range in the PHRP did not come to fruition in 1986, so welcomes this initiative to put this omission right.

APRS Director John Mayhew said: “Extending the boundary would provide greater opportunities for a wider range of people to enjoy the health benefits of outdoor recreation, including people who do not currently benefit from this type of activity.”

The Pentland Hills are an important feature of the Lothian landscape, providing a critical element of the setting for Scotland’s capital city and a distinctive presence across a large swathe of central Scotland. APRS believes that it would be of great value if the experience gained over nearly 30 years of integrating the management of recreation with other land uses within the existing PHRP could be extended to benefit the whole Pentland Hills range.

APRS considers that extending the PHRP would spread to a larger area of land and to a greater number of people the significant benefits which the PHRP brings to its existing area. These include facilitating the enjoyment of the area by visitors, promoting understanding of the work of land managers in the area, protecting and enhancing the area’s important landscape and biodiversity and managing the relationships between these different objectives.

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Notes for Editors

1 The full APRS response can be read at: [APRS response to Pentland Hills Regional Park Consultation](#)

2 The consultation document can be read at [Pentland Hills Regional Park Consultation](#)